domestically and globally. The package inter-alia provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

SSI facing international competition

5097 SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries are facing the international competition after the removal of quantitative restrictions under the World Trade Organisation arrangement from April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that the Small Scale Industries are facing a tough competition with China, Singapore and other countries whose product of better quality are available at cheaper prices in the Indian market; and

(c) if so, steps being taken by Government keeping in view the above facts?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Removal of Quantitative Restrictions have exposed the SSIs to greater competition with China, Singapore and other countries. However, the Small Scale Industries in India have shown resilience to withstand the impact of phasing out quantitative restrictions as is evident from their track record.

(c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports. Government has also put in place several measures to strengthen the small scale industries to make them globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modem management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

SSIs in Assam

5098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new Small Scale Industries/Units set up in Assam during the last five years till date;

(b) the details of various goods being manufactured alongwth the production capacity and actual production being made in these units; and

(c) the details of the SSI Units proposed to be set up in Assam during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR C. P. THAKUR): (a) As reported by the State Government of Assam, the number of the new Small Scale Industries (SSI)/Units set up during the last five years is 10,336 and cumulative number of SSI units set by the end of September, 2002 (latest available) is 27,254.

(b) The list of various goods being manufactured in these units is given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below). The production capacity and actual production being made in these units are Rs. 1380.00 crore and Rs. 1103.658 crore, respectively.

(c) The number of SSI units proposed to be set up in Assam during the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) is 15,000.

Statement

List of various goods being manufactured by the SSI units set up during the last five years

Sl. No.	Goods manufactured by the SSI units set up during the last five years
1.	Food Products
2.	Tobacco Products
3.	Cotton Textiles
4.	Wool Silk & Synthetic Fibre Textiles
5.	Jute, Hemp & Mesta Textiles
6.	Hosiery & Garments including Tailoring
7.	Wood Products
8.	Paper Products & Printing & Boards
9.	Leather Products
10.	Rubber & Plastic Products
11.	Chemical and Chemical Products
12.	Non-Metallic Mineral Products
13.	Basic Metal Industries
14.	Metal Products
15.	Machinery & Parts Except Electrical

Sl. No.	Goods manufactured by the SSI units set up during the last five years
16.	Electrical Machinery and Apparatus
17.	Transport Equipment and Parts
18.	Misc. Manufacturing Industry
19.	Water Work Supply
20.	Construction Materials
21.	Activities Allied to Construction
22.	Real Estate & Business Services
23.	Education, Scientific & Research Services
24.	Medical & Health Services including Medicine
25.	Personal & Services
26.	Services not elsewhere Classified
27.	Other Services & Groups
28.	Cane & Bamboo Items
29.	PVC Pipes various items, HDPE, LDEP items

Financial help to SSIs

5099. SHRIB. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to help the Small Scale Industries sector by way of cheap funds, lower rates of interest on loans;

(b) if so, the details of these incentives and the machinery that would regulate the process to help this small scale sector, and

(c) the proposed measures to control the risk factor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C. P THAKUR): (a) and (b) With a view to facilitate loans at lower rate of interest for the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Public Sector Banks to set the interest rate on advances to SSI sector keeping in view prevailing general southward movement in interest rates. Further, in accordance with the announcement made in the Union Budget 2003-04, Indian Bank Association (IBA) has advised all its member banks to adopt an interest rate band of 2% above and below Prime Lending Rate as announced by the State Bank of India.

(c) In order to extend guarantee cover for mitigating credit risk, the Government have already launched the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries. The Scheme provides guarantee for collateral free loans